

D R A F T

MINUTES OF OFFICERS MEETING OF THE MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT

August 20, 2014

The Officers' Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was called to order by the Moderator, Michelle Vacca, at 4:30 p.m. on August 20, 2014.

Members present were: Marilyn Bellesheim, Leone D'Onofrio, Mary Delisio, Russell Ryan, William Sisco, Michelle Vacca and Dianne Vumback. John Toscano, Solicitor, was also present.

Shannon Earle – arrived at 4:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Leone D'Onofrio and seconded by Russell Ryan to accept the Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2014.

**VOTED: That the Board accepts the Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2014.
(Bellesheim, D'Onofrio, Delisio, Ryan, Sisco, Vacca, Vumback – Yes)**

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Presented with a letter today (see attached) from taxpayers. Additionally, several taxpayers were present and a part of the following discussion:

- Taxpayers are requesting beaches to remain open through September**
- Problem stated by the board – staffing (lifeguarding)**
- Plan to keep open until Labor Day (September 1, 2014)**
- Closed from that point except Saturday or Sunday – for two weekends**
- Discussion whether there is a town ordinance that if there is an open parking lot we must have an open bathroom**
- If parking lot is open, does that mean there is a liability for beach use?**
- John Toscano states that “parking lot can be open, don’t believe you have to be staffed with a lifeguard. Life saving stations should be staffed”.**
- What is the function of the staff – as far as cleanliness and the garbage, as they do not feel the bathrooms are being cleaned.**
- Taxpayers stated would be satisfied if as of Labor Day, the lot is closed during the week and only open until weekends (for two weeks past weekend)**
- Leone proposes a discussion with an automated gate over the winter**
- Beach Access discussion regarding problems this season (staffing,**

cleaning, checking passes, drinking, smoking)

TREASURER REPORT

- **Motion from Bill seconded Leone D'Onofrio – All in favor**
- **See attached**

FIRE CHIEF

- **The department has been very busy**
- **Finalized final numbers (calls/statistics)**
- **There have been 2/3 calls every day last few months**
- **Responded to 132 calls.**
- **Currently 41 fighters (brought on 7 more)**
- **Structure fire on Second Street (see attached letter)**
- **Fire Chief states the department is in need for new gear – grants will be researched**
- **Cost is about \$2,500 to outfit a firefighter.**
- **Uniforms have been thrown out due to mold damage, but never claimed on insurance.**
- **John Toscano, Solicitor, offered his legal opinion that our firemen should not use Western equipment/uniforms long term.**
- **Fire Chief states that the equipment/uniform issue should be resolved by mid-October.**
- **Questions about using department money – Fire Chief not opposed to spending department money, however, he would prefer to spend in**

moderation.

- **Incentive compensation – discussion over how it is calculated. Chief, Leone and Marilyn will work on a revised firefighters' incentive plan. Discussion over criteria to be eligible for incentive.**
- **Russ Ryan mentions that Marilyn has not yet received any quarterly reports from the Fire Department Secretary.**
- **Discussion over the Fire Truck Committee and Fire Station House Committee. Russ suggests we talk to Weekapaug about mutual assistance. Watch Hill has a ladder truck, 6 people working; Dunn's Corner has 15 members that would respond. This building is very old. Improvements need to be made.**
- **This district can issue tax free bonds – use for fire truck.**
- **Westerly Ambulance – can't provide special rescue service due to lack of membership. Effective December 1, 2014. Result will be advancing our equipment and rescue tools, training.**
- **Monitoring medical channels – realized Westerly Ambulance having a difficult time getting EMS coverage on demand. Recently four calls – we as fire dept. took initiative to respond and help out. Liability since not first responders.**
- **Russ Ryan -Thank you and some of your officers for getting the positive rapport back with Watch Hill.**

TAX COLLECTOR

- Bills in the mail tomorrow, Vision running them today
- \$457,263.77 levy
- Approximately \$20,000 outstanding in arrears
- After October 15th, interest starts accruing.

TAX ASSESSOR

- Finalized tax rate and tax rolls
- The process included going line by line in our tax rolls to ensure assessments were correct, veteran exemptions were correct
- Adjusted tax rate and collection rate so that the number was close to \$457,263.77
- 72 cents is the tax rate. (\$.71998)
- Opal Program and our filing requirements – the program generates the actual program that needs to be filed with the state.
- Paperwork is done – signed – just needs to be mailed.

MODERATOR

- District Update
- Several letters – thank you notes regarding Ron Pont, a note from taxpayer Marty, Thank you note regarding 7/21 fire on Second Street, negative letter on Facebook.
- Tax payer – Answer note to Marty *****
- Thank you note – 7/21 put out a house fire 43 2nd street*****

- **MFD website – draft is up and easy to find**
- **Confirmed that the agenda and posting is satisfactory on website**
- **District attended workshop – Assessor's statement, quarterly reports required.**
- **Discussed the underground oil tank. Good news is that we don't believe it is leaking or contaminated. Verbal quote \$3,000.**

A motion was made by Leone D'Onofrio and seconded by Marilyn Bellesheim that we go forward with pursuing the removal of the underground oil tank and the installation of two new oil tanks and all associated work not to exceed 8,000.

VOTED: That the Board goes forward with pursuing the removal of the underground oil tank and the installation of two new oil tanks and all associated work not to exceed 8,000.

Discussion:

- **DEM and the legal requirements**

Roll Call for the motion:

Bellesheim – yes

D'Onofrio – yes

Delisio - yes

Earle – yes

Ryan – yes

Sisco - yes

Vacca – yes

Vumback - yes

- **Letter of transmittal – freedom lists - \$12,187.06.**
- **Discussion over part**
- **March/April call for state elevator inspector.**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Laptop for each Mary and Leone to handle tax roll and tax assessors.**
- **Copy of assessor's report here or on a district laptop.**
- **Letter from town of Westerly – all recycles must be in a recycle container. Must be enclosed by a fence.**
- **Discussion over Former Fire Chief Louis Misto request for information. Mr. Misto is in receipt of documents that MFD Solicitor gave him, per his request. Mr. Misto sent six questions to be answered and he was invited to attend this meeting to be a part of the discussion. He was not present.**

A motion was made by Leone D'Onofrio and seconded by William Sisco that we table the questions from former Chief Misto until the next board meeting in September.

VOTED: That the Board tables the questions from former Chief Misto until the next board meeting in September. (Bellesheim, D'Onofrio, Delisio, Ryan, Sisco, Vacca, Vumback – Yes)

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. all were in favor. The next scheduled board meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Vumback

Clerk